

BRIAN SCHOENJAHN  
STATE SENATOR  
Statehouse: (515) 281-3371

—  
HOME ADDRESS  
PO Box 117  
Arlington, IA 50606  
Home: (563) 633-4065  
brian.schoenjahn@legis.state.ia.us



## The Senate

State of Iowa  
*Eighty-third General Assembly*  
STATEHOUSE  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

### COMMITTEES

Appropriations  
Education, *Vice-Chair*  
Judiciary  
Local Government  
Natural Resources & Environment

Education Budget  
Subcommittee, *Chair*


Jeff Pomeranz, Chair  
I-JOBS Board  
c/o Iowa Finance Authority  
2015 Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50312

Members of the Board,

The City of Elkader business district was devastated by flooding in June 2008. Flood walls that had been in place for many years were no match for the torrential rains and runoff that occurred. I personally helped many of the businesses owners clean the mud and debris as they worked to reestablish their places of business. Many of the properties are no longer protected from the river as the stone walls are gone. I support the grant to reinforce the foundations of the affected buildings as well as the construction of a flood protection system on both North and South Main St. The project will also provide for a more effective storm sewer system.

The grant will help ensure the viability of existing businesses, retain jobs and provide opportunities for future economic growth. I would urge your positive support for this grant application.

Sincerely,

  
Brian Schoenjahn  
Iowa Senate  
District 12

**Roger Thomas**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
*Twenty-Fourth District*  
Statehouse: (515) 281-3221  
e-mail – [roger.thomas@legis.state.ia.us](mailto:roger.thomas@legis.state.ia.us)

HOME ADDRESS  
17658 Domino Road  
Elkader, IA 52043  
Home: 563-245-1084



**House of Representatives**  
State of Iowa  
*Eighty-Third General Assembly*  
STATEHOUSE  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

**COMMITTEES**  
Economic Growth,  
*Chair*  
Rebuild Iowa & Disaster Recovery  
Veterans Affairs  
Ways and Means

**APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Economic Development

July 28, 2010

I-JOBS  
Jeff Pomeranz, Chair  
2015 Grand Ave.  
Des Moines IA 5015

Re: I-JOBS Local Infrastructure Program

Dear Chairman Pomeranz and Board:

I am pleased to offer my support to Elkader's application for the I-JOBS Local Infrastructure Program funding. The financial assistance will be used to construct a flood protection system for the commercial district.

The city of Elkader continues to rebuild from the floods 2008 and is a shining star in Iowa on how a small town can rebound from the devastating floods and regain it's position as a retail destination.

The citizens, community leaders and business owners have dedicated immeasurable hours of visioning to promote redevelopment and growth in Elkader. In fact, the city just became one of Iowa's Great Places and plans to develop new recreational amenities in a six block area where homes once stood.

The I-JOBS funding is essential for the future economic stability of the city. The flood wall will protect the many historic structures along with the entire commercial district.

I hope that you will strongly consider the funding of Elkader's proposal and I look forward to helping the city continue to prosper.

Sincerely,

Roger Thomas



**MAIN STREET  
ELKADER**

July 28, 2010

Re: City of Elkader IJOBS Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

As Main Street Board President, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the City of Elkader's application for the I-JOBS Grant application.

In 1989, Elkader community leaders applied to the state to become a Main Street community shortly after the farm crisis in the 80s due to the loss of many businesses. Although that had an adverse affect on the community, the challenge to again make this community a vibrant retail destination and preserve the historic value is an ongoing effort for the past 19 years. Not much different than the farm crisis of the late 80s was the devastating record floods of 2008 that jeopardized the businesses near the river. The loss of homes and the damage done to the historic Main Street district requires the same commitment now from the state through the I-JOBS funding. The building of a flood wall to protect Elkader's historic Main Street District is critical.

Main Street Elkader is currently working with a consulting firm, Conservation Design Forum, to develop ways to reduce storm water discharge and green practices in the housing buyout area. What's more, Main Street Elkader will be the lead organization to assist in the designating the Main Street district a National Register of Historic Places. Main Street Elkader will commit all resources within the scope of the program to assist Elkader in their effort to preserve the Main Street district.

I hope you will consider funding the application and we look forward to assisting.

Sincerely,

Janine Schiller, Pres.  
Main Street Elkader



July 30, 2010

Re: Letter of support for Elkader IJOBS Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

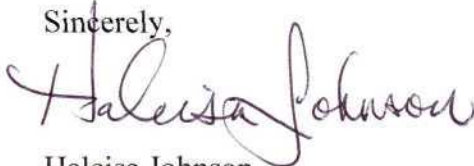
The City of Elkader is applying for an IJOBS Local Infrastructure Program grant. The grant is to build a flood protection wall or system to protect the commercial buildings along North and South Main Street. The Elkader Development Corporation (EDC) applauds the IJOBS funding and the city's application to protect the business. We are very supportive of the application and prepared to partner however we can to make this project succeed.

Elkader ranks second in the state for retail pull factor according the Iowa State University's Retail Trade Analysis Program. This is no small feat for a town of less then 1500 and is a tribute to the hard work and investments the individuals who own businesses here and the city for continually improving the public infrastructure and recreation amenities. Most if not all of the business owners have made appeals to save their business from future flooding knowing that they cannot sustain another financial blow to their buildings or their livelihoods. If another flood with the same magnitude as the June 2008 flood was to happen again many of the businesses would simply close due to structural damage. That scenario is unacceptable and is why building a flood protection system is imperative to the future viability of Elkader.

The entrepreneurial spirit is strong in small communities like Elkader and EDC is proud to have assisted with over \$13 million dollars of private investment in housing, industrial expansion along with many small business startups in the last two years. It is our hope that the state will partner with the city to create more jobs here by showing new investors they need not worry about flooding.

We trust that you will strongly consider funding the city of Elkader's IJOBS application

Sincerely,



Haleisa Johnson  
President Elkader Development Corp.



# Mayor, City Council:

July 16, 2010

We, the undersigned, downtown Elkader business owners directly affected by flooding, believe that flood mitigation should be elevated in priority. We ask that the Elkader City Council apply resources at its disposal to assist in the effort for planning and application for funds. It has recently come to our attention that there were 2009 funds available, that Elkader did not apply for, and that deadlines for 2010 applications are now looming. Applications must come from city governments, not from individual citizens or citizen groups, so we bring our signatures before you to ask for your help, and to pledge to help where we can.

Name: KATHLEEN NEYLAN Signature: Kathleen Neylan

Name: JOANN ISHMAN Signature: Joann Ishman

Name: Alan J Johnson Signature: Alan J Johnson

Name: Julie A. Carlisle-Kane Signature: Julie A. Carlisle-Kane

Name: Ute Grage Signature: Ute Grage

Name: Brian Bruening Signature: Brian Bruening

Name: DIANE AKIN Signature: Diane Akin

Name: LEE AKIN Signature: Lee Akin

Name: John Carner Signature: John Carner

Name: DAVID R BATHS Signature: David R Baths

Name: PAUL OLSON Signature: Paul Olson

Name: Frederique Boudouahi Signature: Frederique Boudouahi

**Neylan Law Office**  
AN ASSOCIATION OF SOLE PRACTITIONERS  
**Kathleen M. Neylan**  
129 SOUTH MAIN  
P.O. BOX 194  
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TELEPHONE (563) 245-1561  
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E-MAIL [kneylan@alpinecom.net](mailto:kneylan@alpinecom.net)

July 27, 2010

Jeff Pomeranz, Chair  
I-Jobs Board  
c/o Iowa Finance Authority  
2015 Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

Dear Mr. Pomeranz:

I own two pieces of real estate in the commercial district of Elkader, Iowa. Both are in the flood plain and one is among the older buildings in the town. The westerly foundation of the buildings on the east Main Street provide the support for the sidewalk and street. As these foundations are being eroded by successive floods, the underpinnings of the public sidewalks, streets, water and sewage lines are threatened.

I support the application of the City of Elkader for an I-Jobs grant. The funds will be used to provide needed protection along the Turkey River as it runs past the public library on north Main Street to the city lift station on the south end of Main Street.

Your careful consideration of this grant application is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

  
Kathleen Neylan

KMN/dlb  
cc: Jennifer Cowser  
City Administrator  
City Hall  
Elkader, IA 52043



Jo Ann Ashman  
Ashman Jewelry  
112 North Main Street  
Elkhader, Iowa 52043

Jeff Pomeranz, Chair I Jobs Board  
2015 Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

July 26, 2010

Dear Mr. Pomeranz:

I am the owner of Ashman Jewelry in Elkhader and would like to express my support for Elkhader's application for flood mitigation assistance through the I Jobs program.

I would like to see funds applied toward construction of a flood protection system on North Main Street, Construction of a levee to protect South Main Street and storm sewer improvements.

I have been in business for 50 years and am the only jewelry store in Clayton County. My ability to continue business here is dependent, in part, upon the City's ability to maintain the town's infrastructure.

Elkhader is a very strong, vibrant community with a beautiful, historic downtown district and we need to protect it from flooding.

I sincerely hope you will consider Elkhader's application for assistance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Ashman  
Ashman Jewelry



Phone (563) 245-2110  
Fax (563) 245-3210  
P.O. Box 40 • 102 N. Main  
Elkader, Iowa 52043

July 28, 2010

Jeff Pomeranz, Chair  
I-Jobs Board  
c/o Iowa Finance Authority  
2015 Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50312

Dear Mr. Pomeranz,

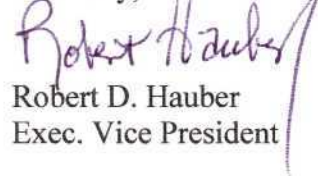
We own two buildings in the Commercial District along the Turkey River in Elkader, Iowa. We would strongly support the I-Jobs application by the City of Elkader for flood mitigation assistance.

In working with businesses that are located within the flood plain of Elkader, it is extremely important that some disaster prevention measures be taken so that those businesses that are continually affected by the flooding get some sort of relief in order for them to continue to operate and expand. If they are unable to do that, it will mean lost employment, lost wages and lost expansion opportunities in the area.

In order to retain these jobs in this area, we need to work on strengthening and improving the foundations of the buildings along the river and construct a flood protection system on the North Main Street, along with storm sewer improvements and construction of a new levee to protect the South Main Street.

Again, I would like to express our support for Elkader's grant application. Thank you very much for your consideration. It is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Hauber  
Exec. Vice President

RDH/df  
cc: Jennifer Cowsert  
City Administrator  
Elkader, IA 52043

Elkader  
563-245-2110

Marquette  
563-873-3553

McGregor  
563-873-3425

Volga  
563-767-2575

[www.bankatcentral.com](http://www.bankatcentral.com)



Ute Gage  
Elkader Dry Cleaners &  
Tuxedo Rentals  
116 N Mains St  
Elkader, IA 52043

Jeff Pomeranz, Chair  
I-Jobs Board  
c/o Iowa Finance Authority  
2015 Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

July 28, 2010

Dear Mr. Pomeranz:

I am the owner of the Elkader Dry Cleaners and Tuxedo Rentals in the commercial district of Elkader, Iowa. The building is in the flood plain and is one of the older ones in town. The westerly foundations of the buildings on the east Main Street provide the support for the sidewalk and street. As these foundations are being eroded by successive floods, the underpinnings of the public sidewalks, streets, water and sewage lines are threatened.

I support the application of the City of Elkader for an I-Jobs grant. The funds will be used to provide needed protection along the Turkey River as it runs past the public library on north Main Street to the city lift station on the south end of Main Street.

I have lived in Elkader for 10 years and very much hope to retire here. My business provides jobs for three people and my ability to continue my business here helps the city maintain its infrastructure.

Your careful consideration of this grant application is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "ute Gage".

Ute Gage  
Elkader Dry Cleaners &  
Tuxedo Rentals

# Schera's

## Restaurant & Bar

107 S Main Street

PO Box 726

Elkader, IA 52043

563-245-1992

info@scheras.com

Jeff Pomeranz, Chair  
I-Jobs Board  
c/o Iowa Finance Authority  
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

Dear Mr. Pomeranz:

We own two buildings on Elkader's Main Street which have been impacted by the flooding of the Turkey River. Schera's Restaurant in particular is located along the river with its foundations providing support for the street and sidewalk. Each flood that we have experience in the last few years has worked to erode this foundation thus putting the street, sewer and water lines in danger. Main Street is the economic heart of our community and we feel its shoring up is vital to the ongoing success of our town.

We support the City of Elkader's application for an I-Jobs grant. The funds will be used to remedy some of these foundation deterioration problems along the river as it runs past the library to the south end of the street.

We would appreciate your thorough consideration of this grant application.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is for Brian L. Bruening, and the second signature on the right is for Frederique Boudouani. Both signatures are fluid and cursive.

Brian L. Bruening & Frederique Boudouani  
Owners, Schera's Restaurant

Lee and Diane Akin  
Resident Owner-Operators of the Elkader Cinema  
108 North Main Street  
Elkader, IA 52043  
(563) 245-2667



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Jeff Pomeranz, Chair, I-Jobs Board  
c/o Iowa Finance Authority  
2015 Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

July 22, 2010

Dear Mr. Pomeranz:

We have been the owners of the Elkader Cinema since early 2003. We completely renovated this building, with the help of a Main Street grant and great support from the community, and re-opened the theater in November of 2003. We have never worked harder in our lives, and it is a labor of love. We have endured a few minor floods, which created some work for us, but as we all know, the flood of 2008 was a major disaster. Even so, this town has bounced back and we are as strong as ever.

Coming from a much larger town (Cedar Rapids), it has been an eye-opening experience to live in Elkader. Small towns are treasures that must be preserved. The downtown of a small town such as Elkader is the heart and soul of the town. If the downtown is allowed to erode away, the town would probably cease to exist. All one would need to do is to visit this town one time to know what a tragedy that would be. Elkader has beautiful historic buildings and is in a breathtaking northeast Iowa setting. If you didn't know about the rolling hills, the bluffs, the abundant wildlife and the friendly, hard-working people, you would be in for a treat if you paid us a visit!

The economics of running a small business in a small town does not allow for repairs such as reinforcing foundations and purchasing temporary flood walls. Waters can come up fast, and recede fast, making the whole event just a blip, but leave behind such destruction. There are things that can be done to mitigate flood damage, and some of them are even relatively inexpensive. The tax base in Elkader has taken a hit from the flood, and the town needs to find ways to adjust for that. In the mean time, we really need some help. Those of us who remain to make up the tax base are paying a very heavy burden. In the days and weeks immediately following the flood of 2008, and in the two years now since the flood, the highest priority has been to help homeowners. Even though we live in the upper floor of our business, we were not treated as "homeowners" with regard to assistance, but as business owners only. Priorities need to be set, and rules need to be made and there is no perfect way to distribute resources. We sincerely hope, though, now that the dust has settled and the residential houses have been fully evaluated and their owners have been made whole again,



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Set into by Whirlpool  **AMANA****OLSON APPLIANCE**  
Authorized Dealer**PAUL OLSON, Owner**  
383-245-1948PO Box 678  
201 South Main St.  
Elkader, Iowa 5264307/29/2010  
ElKader, IA

Attn: Mr. Pomeranz

I own my business at 201 S. main St.  
I have been in business for over 22 1/2 yrs.  
and have had water in my basement 19 times,  
and in June of "2008" on my main floor  
and damaged everything inside, including  
Appliances, furnace, Electrical, Flooring, Parts,  
office equipment & Supplies, walls & insulation, plumbing.

I am concerned about the ground outside  
my building to be under minded by all  
the high water we have had in the  
last 25 yrs. I would like see something  
done with protection to Cities businesses.

I support the I-Jobs application for  
the city of Elkader to help build some  
kind of protection wall to prevent  
flooding in years to come.

Sincerely  
Olson Appliance  
Paul Olson

7/30/10

Jeff Pomeranz, Chair  
I-Jobs Board  
c/o Iowa Finance Authority  
2015 Grand Ave  
Des Moines, IA 50312

I am writing in regards to the application Elkader is putting together for Flood Mitigation for our town.

In 2008 our grocery store received substantial damage due to the flooding of the Turkey River. I was chosen by our Congressman to speak before a congressional subcommittee on a topic related to the flood. During that presentation I addressed Elkader's desperate need for flood mitigation.

I have lived in Elkader since 1992, and have seen the water rise many times. I have talked to people who have lived in the Elkader area all their lives. It is my opinion and the opinion of those residents that I am referencing, that the highway bypass is a major contributor to Elkader's current problem. We need to have the current bridges extended and/or additional culverts installed. According to these longtime residents, the bypass is acting as a dam, pooling water on the upstream side of the highway, now creating water levels Elkader did not experience before the bypass. We need to have a more substantial flood wall behind the current buildings, and have a vastly improved flood wall or dike system for the lower part of town. We need to protect the businesses that chose to reinvest in Elkader after the 2008 flood and protect a historic church that is now at risk.

It is my opinion we could have saved many blocks of families homes and possessions if these flood mitigation measures had already been in place. We are asking for your help now. Please give us the assistance that we need. It is not too late to save a very beautiful and historic town in Iowa.

Dave Wilke  
Wilke's  
Iowa's Oldest Family Owned Grocery Store  
Since 1867  
Elkader, IA 52043  
563.245.2413  
wilke@alpinecom.net

Dr. Bruce Landis  
Elkader Eye Clinic, PC  
202 S. Main St.  
Elkader, IA 52043

Jeff Pomeranz, Chair, I-Jobs Board  
c/o Iowa Finance Authority  
2015 Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

July 27, 2010

Dear Mr. Pomeranz:

I am the owner of Elkader Eye Clinic. I understand the city of Elkader is eligible to apply for flood control assistance through the I-JOBS program. I support this project whole heartedly.

I would like to see funds applied toward the buildings on the east side of north and south Main Street, as well as flood protection for businesses on South Main Street including my own. Elkader is a strong, economic small town as evidenced by its sales tax per capita numbers. It is a national award winning, historic downtown district, and it would be unfortunate to see it eroded away by the river, when that could be prevented.

I have lived in Elkader my entire professional career, nearly 30 years, and hope to continue practice and retire here. My business provides jobs for five people, and my ability to continue business in Elkader is dependent, in part, upon the city's ability to maintain the town's infrastructure.

I sincerely hope you consider Elkader's application for assistance. Elkader is a great place to live, work and raise children. We want to do everything in our power to keep it that way.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bruce Landis  
Elkader Eye Clinic, PC



July 26, 2010

Jeff Pomeranz, Chair  
I-Jobs Board  
c/o Iowa Finance Authority  
2015 Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

Dear Mr. Pomeranz:

As Executive Director of NorthLand Agency on Aging, I am writing to express my support for Elkader's application for flood mitigation assistance through the I-Jobs program.

As owner of the Elkader Senior Center on Main Street, and renter of a satellite office on Mulberry Street, NorthLand is strongly in favor of efforts to strengthen and reinforce the foundations of buildings along the river, as well as any other improvements that will ensure that the flood protection system functions at maximum effectiveness. Elkader has a beautiful, historic downtown district that those who live, work and own property there want to see preserved and protected.

NorthLand's programs in Elkader and throughout Clayton County provide jobs for four people and serve hundreds of senior citizens. Our ability to continue business in Elkader is dependent, in part, upon the city's ability to maintain the community's infrastructure.

We sincerely hope the I-Jobs Board will favorably consider Elkader's application for assistance. It is a great place to live, work and retire. We at NorthLand want to do all we can to keep it that way. Your time and consideration are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Bruce A. Butters  
Executive Director